January 2010

Cover Shot
Suzan Meldonian

Meeting Schedule
February 9
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14

7:30 PM at
El Palacio
(formerly the Holiday Inn)
21485 N.W. 27th Avenue, Miami
305-621-5801

Presentation:
Michael Patrick O’Neil

Wild Waters
Intra-Club Contest Winners November 09
Members in the News- Excellence Continues into the New Year!

New 2010 Intra Club Contest Subjects
Links to Photo Contests
Holiday Party
Florida Dive Show
Annual Dues are due
New Mask Review

Spotty Eagle Ray © Suzan Meldonian

Example of Florida Snow- or Pointilism underwater

BABY IT’S GOLD OUTSIDE!!!
IT’S EVEN SNOWING UNDERWATER!

Submit "Cover Photo" material to the Newsletter Editor Suzan Meldonian, 561-394-6391 or e-mail: newsletter@sfups.org Please include a short paragraph about the photo, including camera information and location. DEADLINE IS THE 25th!
Happy New Year

From the Editor . . .
Suzan Meldonian

Well, we have wrapped up 2009 with some outstanding success stories. Christopher Guglielmo, Steve Kovacs, new member Matt Polenski, Kirk Kilfoyle, Suzan Meldonian, and Amaury Cruz took places in international contests... 
See page 4 for more wins. Matt has just joined us as a new member and his list of scientific credentials ...well, be sure to click on the links to read more- there’s an amazing story there.

Congratulations to Christopher Guglielmo
2009 Photographer of the Year!

I think we’ve added more new members this year than ever before. Credit for this is thanks to all of you- our members. You have worked diligently and steadfast and through your efforts, your web galleries, your voice, our website and presence at dive shows, we’ve attracted some really substantial talent.

I can’t tell you how exciting it is to see new blood! Each new member brings a different perspective, different equipment, different talents and points of view which will do nothing but build our reputability as a substantial club, but as I say, it will most certainly raise the bar.  It is time to reach for the stars.

Be prepared! The competitions are going to keep getting tougher. Not so much the subject matter, but how you approach it... how you photograph it. Not just within our club, but in the outside world as well. The Digital Age is upon us, and you couldn’t be more fortunate to have SFUPS as a home base. We do our very best to bring excellent speakers and with such a wealth of talent within our midst- any one member could be your inspiration to improve your imagery. Remember if you walk away with just one new idea each month and apply it.... the limits are endless.

I told Sharon, the winning images for 2009 were by far some of the best we’ve seen. I don’t know about you, but sometimes I take a shot, and just have to pinch myself. Sure sure, we’ve all had to re-learn photography all over again, and how to use our cameras and continue upgrading, archiving, and pushing ourselves to keep up with the Joneses... But Golly, have you seen what kind of pictures they are taking?

This year’s goal: try to take images that require little or no computer corrections. That’s what it takes to win those BIG prizes! Good luck, good health, great photos, calm seas, great success!

- Suzan Meldonian
At the blink of an eye 2009 has come and gone. Now, we bring in 2010 with fresh ideas from the addition to our 2010 SFUPS Board of Directors and new members.

SFUPS’s quality continues to be enriched by the creativity of its past, present and new members. In December we dominated the South Florida Dive show with SFUPS members giving presentations. Professional photographer Phil Rudin gave seminars on macro photography. Richard Ladisky gave a slide show on his worldly travels. Our Newsletter Editor, Suzan Meldonian, introduced her first published book, Under the Bridge with standing room only. She now joins the prestigious group of several other SFUPS authors; Rob Myers, an old hat at this with his 8th book in progress, Caribbean Coral Reef Guide; Anne DuPont, Caribbean Sea Slugs; Steve Kovacs, Magic Beneath the Seas; Michele Westmoreland, Ocean Duets; and Doug Perrine, former professional member and author, publishing his own images. We can also mention having several of our SFUPS photographers who participated in various competitions world wide winning and placing in many of these global events with the list growing and their names announced in several magazines and publications. There are too many to mention.

SFUPS members are ever reaching levels of photography above the bar, expanding our knowledge, creativity, and our horizons. We are reaching goals that were once only dreams and are now attainable through highly sophisticated digital methodology with unrestricted creativity.

2010 will no doubt unveil its new surprises as the year progresses. With the ability of a DSLR camera now having capabilities of taking still and HD video, who knows what the next generation will have in store for us.

In the 2010 new year, SFUPS has several events in the works. A Lightroom course consisting of 12 classes will be offered. A 2010 dive schedule will be published in April with several members leading various trips. SFUPS and Reef Photo are arranging a teaching seminar of basic photography skills to the members of SFUPS and the graduate students of Nova University. Additional activities will be added and posted on our Website and announced in our amazing newsletter, Deep Exposure, as they are planned.

This year will be the start of a new decade of changes. Let’s get started with great optimism and make another productive and successful year happen.

Happiness, health, and wealth to all and remember … take lots of pictures.

- Sharon Baron
Our Guest Speaker, back by popular demand!

Michael Patrick O’Neil

Presentation:

Preview of his new release!

**WILD WATERS**

Born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil, Michael has been an avid conservationist since childhood. With the Gulf Stream at his doorstep, he began photographing the area’s rich marine life while pursuing a corporate career and obtaining his MBA from the University of Miami. For the past 17 years, he has traveled extensively as a photographer and writer, concentrating primarily on sea life and environmental issues. His work, widely published, aims to educate and to communicate to others the beauty, diversity and fragility of the oceans - and the urgent need to protect them. Michael works with photo agents in New York and London, and his photography is licensed worldwide to many publishers in a variety of mediums.

**Awards:**

2009 - Highly Honored; Nature’s Best International Photography Awards Competition (Wildlife category)
2009 - Winner; Nature’s Best Photography Oceans Views Competition
2008 - 1st Place; Sixty-Fifth Annual Pictures of the Year International (POYi) Competition; (Science/Natural History division)
2007 - 1st Place; Nature’s Best International Photography Awards Competition; (People in Nature category); Honorable Mention (Oceans category)
2006 - 1st Pace; National Wildlife Photography Awards Competition (Connecting People with Nature pro category)

**Published Books:**
Shark Encounters
Ocean Magic
Fishy Friends
Let’s Explore Sea Turtles
Let’s Explore Coral Reefs
Let’s Explore Sharks

My presentation is titled Wild Waters, after my new book, Wild Waters Photo Journal, that is coming out in the spring of 2010. I will show material that will be in the book, including Florida (Palm Beach, Everglades & Manatees), Indonesia (Bali, Lembeh, Komodo), Guadalupe Great Whites and Brazil (freshwater springs in southwestern Brazil).
Wow, again! Congratulations to All …You make us Proud!

Winners who are members of SFUPS:

**Ocean Views 2009 Winners**
[http://www.naturesbestphotography.com](http://www.naturesbestphotography.com)
Grand Prize Winner: Matthew Potenski “Whale Shark and Sardines”
Steven Kovacs “Nudibranchs”
Michael Patrick O’Neill “Checkerboard Wrasse”

**Seaweb/Marine Photobank Oceans in Focus** conservation photography contest
[http://www.marineparkphotobank.org/resources/OceaninFocusPhotoContestResults2009.php](http://www.marineparkphotobank.org/resources/OceaninFocusPhotoContestResults2009.php)
Grand Prize Winner: Matthew Potenski

**Sharks in Focus 2009 - Winners Gallery**
Matt Potenski “Nurse Sharks at sunset”

**LAUPS International Contest**
Category – Macro Digital
Honorable Mentions: Steve Kovacs, Moore Haven, Florida, USA, “Clown Fish & Eggs”

Category - Behavior
Third Place: Steve Kovacs, Moore Haven, Florida, USA, “Sea Horses”
Fourth Place: Steve Kovacs, Moore Haven, Florida, USA, “Fish & Eggs”
Fifth Place: Steve Kovacs, Moore Haven, Florida, USA, “Clown Fish & Eggs”

**NCUPS 2009**
Print: First Place: Steve Kovacs “Fine Dining”
Print: Second Place: Steve Kovacs “Diligent Mom”
Print: Third Place: Steve Kovacs “Mating Sea Horses”
Conservation: Honorable Mention: Suzan Meldonian “Decorator Crab with Polyp”
Conservation: Honorable Mention: Suzan Meldonian “Decorator Crab with ‘Tude”
SFUPS BOARD MEMBERS 2010

President: Sharon Baron
First Vice President: Phil Rudin
Treasurer: Patrice Marker
Secretary: Lureen Ferretti
Newsletter Editor: Suzan Meldonian
Membership: Steve Jarocki
Webmaster: Susan Mears
Audio Visual: Alena Carlini
Director at Large: Carol Schurtz
Director at Large: Rob Myers
Our new booth set up at the Florida Dive Show was simply spectacular! Heartfelt thanks goes out to Susan & Jim Mears for this wonderful creation. It looked so beautiful. And thanks to all of the contributing photographers,

The people that participated by donating photos to display are:

- Sharon Baron
- Susan Mears
- Patrice Marker
- Rob Myers
- Lureen Ferretti
- Carol Schurtz
- Steve Jarocki
- Linda Ianniello
- Judy Townsend
WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST:
NOVEMBER: Masters Fall Colors

1st Place: Suzan Meldonian
2nd Place: Susan Mears
3rd Place: Susan Mears
4th Place: Kim Cook
5th Place: Kim Cook
WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST NOVEMBER:

CHALLENGERS: Turkeyfish / Lionfish

1st Place: Shen Collazo

2nd Place: Kim Cook

3rd Place: Marlin Meldonian

4th Place: Sharon Baron

3rd Place: Patrice Marker
# Future Intra-Club Contests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>MASTERS</th>
<th>CHALLENGERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frogfish – any member of the family Antenariidae.</td>
<td>Silver – any primarily silver fish.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Odd Couples – main subject of the photo is two fish/creatures that are not of the same species doing something together. The key word is odd – this excludes cleaning or symbiosis which are “normal” for the featured species.</td>
<td>Sand Dwellers – fishes or other mobile creatures that make their home in the sand (animals, not plants; may include anemones, sea pens - which are soft corals, mushroom corals - which are hard corals).</td>
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<tr>
<td>M - Odd Couples</td>
<td>C - Sand Dwellers</td>
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<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>Jellies – includes jellyfishes, box jellies, salps, and other free-swimming gelatinous or jelly-like animals.</th>
<th>Sea Slugs - must be a gastropod mollusk which includes headshield slugs, sapsucking slugs, side-gill slugs, sea hares and nudibranchs. Does not include flatworms.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M - Jellies</td>
<td>C - Sea Slugs</td>
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<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>Silhouettes – subject must be very dark to black against a light background.</th>
<th>Ambient Light – no strobes, photos taken in shallower water work best.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M - Silhouettes</td>
<td>C - Ambient Light</td>
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<tr>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>Pretty in Pink</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M - Pretty Pink</td>
<td>C - Patterns</td>
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<tr>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>Humor – may include divers.</th>
<th>Wide Angle featuring Sponges – a sponge or group of sponges as the main subject of the W/A photo.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M - Humor</td>
<td>C - W/A Sponges</td>
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<tr>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>Polka Dots – a fish or creature that has well-defined dots, not irregular splotches.</th>
<th>Bars &amp; Stripes – subject must have contrasting vertical (bars), horizontal (stripes) or oblique bands or lines of color.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M - Polka Dots</td>
<td>C - Bars &amp; Stripes</td>
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<tr>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>Squid or Cuttlefish</th>
<th>Octopus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M - Squid/Cuttlefish</td>
<td>C - Octopus</td>
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<tr>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>Close Focus Wide Angle – forced perspective - the main subject is very close to the lens and looks larger than life when compared to the wide angle background.</th>
<th>Reef Scapes – reef scenes shot with a wide angle lens.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M -Close Focus W/A</td>
<td>C - Reef Scapes</td>
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<tr>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>Carry the Load – a creature physically carrying something. (e.g. crab with urchin on back, jawfish with rock in mouth, cardinalfish with eggs in mouth).</th>
<th>Hitching a Ride – a fish or creature riding on another fish/creature. (e.g. a remora on a shark, a shrimp on a nudibranch).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M - Carry da Load</td>
<td>C - Hitchin a Ride</td>
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<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>Commensalism – two different animals living together in a symbiotic relationship in which one or both benefit but neither is harmed (e.g. Shrimp-goby with its host shrimp, anemonefish in host anemone).</th>
<th>Cleaning Stations - must feature the cleaner and its client(s).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M - Commensalism</td>
<td>C - Cleaning Station</td>
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<tr>
<th>SPECIAL</th>
<th>“Creative” – anything goes (no points for this one, just have fun &amp; let your imagination run wild).</th>
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<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>OPEN TO ALL</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIDEO DUE &amp; HOLIDAY PARTY</td>
<td>To be announced: Sometime between May and October there will be an on-the-day contest in which contestants participate in a dive or dives and submit up to two of their photos taken on those dives. This one is for points, open to all club members. Space may be limited depending on the venue, so sign up early once this is announced.</td>
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The editors of Nature’s Best Photography magazine invite all photographers to enter the 2010 Windland Smith Rice International Awards competition. Category Winners and a selection of Highly Honored photographs will be displayed in an exhibition at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, one of the most widely respected and highly visited museums in the world. In addition, all winning images will be published in the 2010 Awards collector’s edition of Nature’s Best Photography magazine. Entries are judged on technical quality, originality, and artistic merit. Enter a TOTAL of up to 20 images for one entry fee of $25 US dollars (no foreign checks). Each submission must follow the guidelines. NOTE: Prints and images on negative film are NOT accepted. Submissions may be uploaded on this website or mailed to our office in Reston, Virginia, USA (see below). Deadline: January 1 until April 5, 2010
NEW MEMBER ALERT!

Francois Benjamin, nickname “Ben”
I have been diving for five years. This is now my favorite hobby. Not long ago I started taking picture with an Olympus 770 SW. I am using now a Canon Power-shot G11. While this is a point and shot; it has many features an SLR has.

I have a new passion for critters. The Blue Heron Bridge offers endless possibilities to take picture of those.

Outside of the US, I did a shark Dive in the Bahamas. This was one of my most exhilarating dive experiences. I am looking forward to diving the Lembeh Straits and the Great Barrier Reef.

Jose (Tony) Barros
and
Matt Potenski

Bi-Focal Mask! AVAILABLE AT FORCE-E

Folks I just bought a Deep Sea Clarity Mask- with bi-focal lenses- all done right in the store- no prescription! I don’t know about you- but I am slowly going blind- You have to buy this specific mask- retails $49.94 and they pop out the mask lenses and pop in real glass bifocals. The bifocals are purchased separately- but are only $39.95 each. This was so convenient- but best of all - I walked in- bought - walked out- and no scrubbing was necessary- I just used regular sea drops- and went diving- no fog! ... and even better than that- I CAN SEE AGAIN!!!
So seriously awesome!

DUES ARE DUE

It’s time to pay your dues for 2010. The annual dues are:

$35.00 for an individual
$45.00 for a family
$20.00 for an “Out of the Area” non-participating membership

Send your check, made out to “SFUPS”, to:

Steve Jarocki
8907 W. Oakland Park Blvd.
Sunrise, FL  33351

(Or, bring your check to the the next meeting)
Parting Shots
by
Susan Mears &
Barry Kulick

Susan Mears was the Photographer of the month in December and
Barry Kulick is the SFUPS Featured Photographer for January 2010.

Visit www.sfups.org to see our galleries.

Your on-line gallery comes with your paid membership. Take Advantage!

South Florida Underwater Photography Society
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SFUPS is a Non-Profit Organization promoting interest in Underwater Photography. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (January- November) at 7:30 p.m. at the El Palacio Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn- Pro Player), 21485 N.W. 27th Avenue, Miami

Annual Dues are $35.00 (individual), $45.00 (family) and $20.00 for “Out of Area” non-participating members. Dues are payable each January. After June 1st, dues are prorated to 1/2 of the above rates for new members only.

A Membership form must be filled out, signed and returned along with payment, a copy of your C-card and dive insurance. Make checks payable to SFUPS and send to: ©

© Steve Jarocki, 8907 W. Oakland Pk. Blvd., Sunrise, FL 33351

Membership forms can be found on our website at www.sfups.org and will also be available at the meetings.